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PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

10/516718

Applicant's or agent's file reference 4362-1	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IL 03/00477	International filing date *(day/month/year)* 04.06.2003	Priority date *(day/month/year)* 05.06.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B31D5/00, B31D5/00		
Applicant NOVA-TEK TECHNOLOGIES LTD.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

   ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

   These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

   - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
   - II ☐ Priority
   - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
   - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
   - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
   - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
   - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
   - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
05.01.2004	14.05.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Roberts, P Telephone No. +31 70 340-2305

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IL 03/00477

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17))*:

Description, Pages

1-15 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-23 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/7-7/7 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

   These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

   ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

   ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

   ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

   ☐ contained in the international application in written form.

   ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

   ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

   ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

   ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

   ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

   ☐ the description, pages:

   ☐ the claims, Nos.:

   ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

   (Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-23
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-23
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-23
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

   see separate sheet

The following document (D) is referred to in this communication; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1: US-A-6209286

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Novelty

Claims 1 and 22 are novel over D1.

1.1 Claim 1. D1 discloses:

An apparatus for the production of inflated cellular cushioning material, the apparatus comprising: a dispensing unit comprising a feeding material roll, for feeding plastic material having sleeves or rows of cells, to be filled with air; a first and second conveyors for receiving the feeding material; at least one motor for rolling the first and second conveyors; at least one device for supplying air or gas for providing air or gas connected to an at least one air pipe inflator for directing the flow of air or gas into the feeding material; and at least one welding unit for sealing the feeding material.

D1 does not disclose:

and holding such feeding material in a substantially flat position confining feeding material inflation between the first and second conveyors

1.2 Claim 22. D1 discloses:

A method for the production of inflated cellular material, the method comprising the steps of : feeding pre-welded feeding material to the apparatus; conveying the feeding material in the opposite direction to the direction of the air flow from an air pipe inflator; applying at least one welding unit to the inflated feeding material, thus forming inflated cellular cushioning material.

D1 does not disclose:

controlling the amount of air inserted into the feeding material through the use of a first and second conveyors.

Inventive Step

Claims 1 and 22 of the application involve an inventive step as per Art. 33(1) PCT.

2.1 Claim 1.

Using D1 as the closest prior art the problem to be solved is to provide a device which prevents blocking of material during production due to deformation of the feeding material by inflation.

This is solved by the nondisclosed feature above as this acts to keep the feeding material substantially flat and controls the amount of air entering during inflation. This prevents deformation and, hence, blockage.

This is not suggested or hinted by the prior art.

2.2 Claim 22.

Using D1 as the closest prior art the problem to be solved is to provide a process which prevents blocking of material during production due to deformation of the feeding material by inflation.
This is solved by the nondisclosed feature above as this acts to keep the feeding material substantially flat and controls the amount of air entering during inflation. This prevents deformation and, hence, blockage.

This is not suggested or hinted by the prior art.

3.1 This invention is industrially applicable.